13th August 1954]

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (b) Does not arise."

Betting on American Cotton Market prices.

* 1387 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) for how long the widespread gambling known as " New York Cotton Number Betting " has been going on in this State;

(b) whether the Government have received a bulletin in Tamil entitled " exposure of secrets of New York Cotton " gambling;

(c) whether the Police have investigated any cases of such gambling;

(d) if so, the number of prosecutions and convictions, if any; and

(e) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to prevent this gambling? 11-20 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) A certain amount of betting on American Cotton Market prices is going on in this State since 1943.

" (b) Yes, Sir.

" (c) Yes, Sir.

" (d) The number of prosecutions and convictions during 1953 in Madras City is—

Number prosecuted—2,766.

Number convicted—2,389.

It is not possible to give figures for the districts.

" (e) The Police are taking adequate steps to check this form of gambling."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த சூதாட்டங்களையும், குறுக்கெழுத்துப்போட்டிகளையும் தடைசெய்வதற்காக சட்டமியற்றப்படும் என்று ஒரு முறை ஒரு கேள்விக்கு பதில் சொல்லப்பட்டது. அகைப்பற்றி மந்திரி அவர்கள் என்ன முடிவு எடுத்துக் கொண்டார்கள் என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Regarding cross-word puzzles and other things, the matter is under the active consideration of the Government. We hope to take a decision in the matter very soon."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, answering a similar question on a previous occasion the Hon. Minister stated that there was no need to amend the Act, but only there was need to take effective steps against the evil of betting on cotton. I have been reliably informed by the highest Police officials that the Act is defective

and when any accused wants to defend himself, there is no possibility of getting a conviction. Will Government look into this matter?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, so far as that question is concerned, if any lacuna in the Act is pointed out by the Court, certainly we can take immediate action to rectify it."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, if it is the intention of the Government of Madras to take a firm action or decision in banning cross-word puzzles, may I know why some of the Ministers of the State of Madras are indirectly encouraging this kind of cross-word puzzles by presiding over prize distribution functions . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The main question is about cotton market."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Yes, Sir. Arising from the answer given by the Hon. Minister regarding banning of cross-word puzzles, may I know why some of the Ministers are taking part in prize distribution functions? I have seen advertisements displayed on the buses plying in the City of Madras informing that some prominent members of the Cabinet and ex-Ministers are taking part in the celebrations got up for distributing prizes."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Because it has not yet been prohibited, Sir."

* 1388 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of persons sentenced in the City of Madras for betting on New York Cotton prices; and

(*b*) whether any Government servant or official is involved in such a betting?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The number of persons sentenced in the City of Madras for betting on New York Cotton prices is as follows :—

1951—279.
1952—497.
1953—2,389.

" (*b*) No, Sir."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" Sir, may I know whether any investigation was made by the Government into the Tamil Bulletin called 'Exposure of Secrets of New York Cotton', so far as the 'secrets' are concerned and whether the Police are encouraging these and are directly involved in these?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I am unable to accept the allegations made by the hon. Member against the Police, namely, that they are colluding in this. As a matter of fact, in 1953 there were as many as 2,389 cases of conviction."